

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION 88

PROPOSITION 88: A SMART INVESTMENT FOR OUR SCHOOLS, OUR STUDENTS, AND CALIFORNIA'S FUTURE

Consider:

- Students in one-third of California classrooms don't have a textbook to take home—and many don't even have a textbook to use in class.
- Teachers are paying for school materials out of their own pockets.
- Too many California classrooms are still overcrowded.
- Prop. 88 will help California graduate the skilled, educated workforce that is critical to a healthy business environment and our state's economic prosperity.

PROP. 88: LOCAL CONTROL OF DOLLARS FOR CLASSROOMS

The education needs of communities and schools are not all the same. Prop. 88 provides needed funding directly to local schools and school districts so that they, not the Legislature, decide where to spend the funds.

Prop. 88 will provide dedicated funding to:

- Reduce class size so students get more individualized instruction
- Provide textbooks and other learning materials, so teachers don't have to pay for these fundamental necessities out of their own pockets
- Make schools safer for students and teachers and help stop campus violence and gangs

PROP. 88: A PRUDENT AND FAIR INVESTMENT

Prop. 88 will put over \$500 million a year directly into our local schools through a nominal (about 14¢ per day/\$50 per year) property parcel assessment. Funds from Prop. 88 will be used to invest in our teachers and students, providing local schools with needed resources, like textbooks, computers, and other materials. **TEACHERS SHOULDN'T HAVE TO DIP INTO THEIR OWN POCKETS TO PAY FOR CLASSROOM MATERIALS.**

To protect those on fixed incomes, **PROP. 88 EXEMPTS**

SENIOR AND DISABLED HOMEOWNERS [Section 21.5(b)].

PROP. 88: STRICT ACCOUNTABILITY AND ANNUAL AUDITS

Funds from Prop. 88 are prohibited from being used for administrative overhead and the Legislature cannot redirect the money to other programs [Section 6.2].

To ensure that funds go to classrooms and student learning, Prop. 88 requires annual independent audits [Section 6.2.(5)c] and penalties for misuse.

With Prop. 88, we know exactly where the money goes and we can make sure it is spent wisely.

PROP. 88: THE NEXT STEP IN IMPROVING OUR K-12 EDUCATION SYSTEM

Taxpayers have invested in our school system by approving local and state bonds to build new classrooms and remodel out-of-date facilities. But bonds don't pay for teachers, textbooks, or other learning materials and supplies. Prop. 88 puts funds in our classrooms and allows local educators to use the funds where they are most needed.

PROP. 88: A VOTE FOR TEACHERS AND OUR KIDS

Teachers have one of the most important jobs. Yet their jobs are made difficult because of overcrowded classrooms and a lack of basic supplies. YES on Prop. 88 will help provide teachers the resources they need to teach our children and give children the attention they need and deserve.

READ PROP. 88 FOR YOURSELF. IT'S A SMALL INVESTMENT NOW THAT CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE FOR OUR FUTURE.

Vote YES on 88: More Textbooks and Learning Materials, Smaller Classes, and Safer Schools!

REED HASTINGS, Past President
California State Board of Education

JACK O'CONNELL, California State Superintendent of
Public Instruction

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION 88

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The California Parents-Teachers Association (PTA) says "NO on Proposition 88."

Would the PTA say "No on 88" if it helped our kids' schools?

Proposition 88 is tricky and misleading. There is NOT ONE WORD in Proposition 88 about helping teachers who buy materials.

And, 88 gives the impression all funds will go to classrooms. Nonsense! Proposition 88 creates layers of costly new bureaucracies and expands old bureaucracies—for a program which forever bans Proposition 88's facilities grants to more than 95% of our kids' schools!

This whole new kind of parcel property tax would be collected from 10 million property owners by 58 county tax collectors—with new special exemptions.

Then your money goes to the State Legislature, which decides who gets your tax money. (Proposition 88—Section 6.2[d])

Then 1000+ school districts collect new data from 9300+ California schools.

Then Proposition 88 requires analysis from a new "integrated longitudinal teacher and student data system as defined by the Legislature." (Section 6.2 [b] [5])

County Treasurer Paul McDonnell says: "Proposition 88 is a costly administrative nightmare, creating new layers of expensive bureaucracy."

Proposition 88 creates a whole new kind of property tax, needing only a majority vote to pass, opening the floodgates to new parcel property tax propositions. A tax with no termination date—it lasts forever. All so fewer than 5% of our kids' schools can ask the State Legislature for a facilities grant?

Our kids, our schools, and our taxpayers deserve better. Much better.

Parents, Teachers, and Taxpayers agree . . . NO on 88!

CLIFFORD CORIGLIANO, SR., Teacher of the Year, 2003

ART PEDROZA, Member
California and American Federations of Teachers, AFL-CIO

LORIE McCANN, Parent-Teachers Association Local President